



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending August 26, 2012

Issued weekly, April-November

Released August 27, 2012, 4 pm

*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa) and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."*

**Excellent Week for Field Work:** Pennsylvania had an average of 6 days suitable for field work. Field activities for the week included making hay, plowing and harvesting. Fall plowing continues and is 16% complete, ahead of last year's 18% and the average of 14%.

**PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 26, 2012**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	19	76	5

**Crop Progress:** Corn is 79% at the dough stage, compared with 65% last year and the average of 68%. Corn is 46% at the dent stage, ahead of 30% at this time last year and the average of 36%. Corn is 12% at the mature stage, ahead of 4% at this time last year and the average of 6%. The corn silage harvest continues at 21% complete, compared to 12% at this time last year and the average of 15%. Tobacco harvest is 60% complete, ahead of 22% at this time last year and the average of 36%. The potato harvest is 45% complete, ahead of last year's 10% and the average of 17%. Third cutting alfalfa is 96% complete, compared with last year's 91% and the 5-year average of 86%. Fourth cutting of alfalfa is 38% complete compared with 18% at this time last year and the average of 22%. The second cutting of timothy/clover is 94% complete, ahead of last year's 91% and the 5-year average of 87%. The apple harvest is 48% complete, ahead of 32% at this time last year and the average of 32%.

**Crop Condition:** State-wide corn conditions are; 2% very poor, 8% poor, 32% fair, 40% good, and 18% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 29% fair, 47% good, and 21% excellent. Quality of hay made is; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 25% fair, 51% good and 23% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 5% very poor, 14% poor, 49% fair, 26% good and 6% excellent. Apple conditions are; 1% very poor, 0% poor, 13% fair, 47% good, and 39% excellent.

**Nationwide as of August 19, 2012:** Cooler weather settled over most areas east of the Rocky Mountains during the week, providing some relief from the scorching temperatures recorded during much of the summer. Most notably, weekly temperature averaged as much as 9°F below normal in portions of the western Corn Belt and Great Plains. Elsewhere, hot, dry weather across much of the West aided small grain harvest. Precipitation was scattered across the country, with some locations in the South receiving more than eight times the normal weekly rainfall. Portions of the eastern Corn Belt

received more than 2 inches of rain during the week, helping to slightly improve immature summer crop conditions. **Corn:** Nationally, 89 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage by August 19. This was 22 percentage points ahead of last year and 23 points ahead of the 5-year average. Denting advanced 18 percentage points during the week, leaving progress—at 60 percent complete—32 percentage points ahead of last year and 31 points ahead of the 5-year average. By week's end, 17 percent of the corn crop was mature, 13 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. In Iowa, crop maturity was reported as being nearly 3 weeks ahead of the normal pace. Nationwide, producers had harvested 4 percent of this year's crop by August 19, three percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average—and one of the quickest paces on record. In Nebraska, corn harvested for grain was observed in many southern counties; however, more drought-damaged fields continued to be chopped for silage or baled for hay. Overall, 23 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 34 percentage points below the same time last year. **Soybeans:** By week's end, 91 percent of this year's soybean crop was at or beyond the pod-setting stage, 12 percentage points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of the 5-year average. Increased rainfall in portions of the Corn Belt benefited late-planted soybean stands, with additional crop growth and pod fill evident in some fields. By August 19, leaves were dropping on 4 percent of the nation's crop, 3 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Timely rainfall helped to slow spider mite activity during the week. Overall, 31 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up slightly from last week but 28 percentage points below the same time last year. **Winter Wheat:** Harvest advanced quickly across much of the nation's northern tier, as weather conditions provided ample time for producers to complete fieldwork during the week. By August 19, ninety-seven percent of the 2012 winter wheat crop was harvested, 5 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. **Small Grains:** By August 19, oat producers had harvested 98 percent of this year's crop, 22 percentage points ahead of last year and 18 points ahead of the 5-year average. With favorable weather conditions providing ample time for fieldwork across much of the nation's northern tier, barley producers maintained a rapid harvest pace. By week's end, 66 percent of this year's crop had been combined, 47 percentage points ahead of last year and 28 points ahead of the 5-year average.

## Weather Data For Week Ending August 26, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 26, 2012					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	90	55	71	2	0.00	0	11.37	-6.21	45	2,479	502	3,791
Franklin_AG	87	52	68	1	0.28	2	15.00	-5.27	58	2,303	436	3,612
Meadville-Port	85	51	69	3	0.29	3	14.42	-5.61	53	2,368	657	3,692
Clarion	84	50	66	-3	0.28	2	17.84	-3.11	54	2,027	145	3,318
Springboro	86	47	66	-3	0.00	0	14.78	-2.77	56	2,055	91	3,329
Warren	87	49	67	1	0.66	1	16.13	-3.99	58	2,139	323	3,432
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	82	43	63	2	0.50	2	16.98	-3.20	56	1,900	563	3,176
Oswayo	85	38	62	-2	0.06	1	15.07	-3.98	52	1,701	229	2,948
Kane	85	42	62	0	0.12	1	19.16	-1.27	58	1,702	387	2,954
Laporte	78	48	64	-4	0.23	1	24.40	5.75	61	1,891	25	3,174
Lock Haven	86	53	68	0	0.15	1	16.52	-1.88	61	2,462	491	3,840
Coudersport_1SW	83	44	63	-1	0.04	2	19.80	0.75	65	1,764	292	3,013
Renovo	86	52	68	1	0.62	1	21.24	2.84	57	2,390	419	3,759
Ridgway	86	47	65	1	0.13	2	15.35	-5.02	60	2,028	532	3,322
Stevenson Dam	85	51	67	4	0.65	2	19.86	-0.51	52	2,282	786	3,633
Towanda	85	50	67	0	0.77	1	17.43	1.98	59	2,213	331	3,524
Wellsboro	83	46	64	1	0.11	1	14.15	-1.41	54	1,814	395	3,093
Williamsport	86	57	70	0	0.63	1	16.01	-2.23	61	2,645	473	4,036
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	83	49	66	0	0.36	2	16.20	-1.41	55	1,990	378	3,278
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	86	55	70	2	0.23	1	16.74	-0.44	61	2,514	448	3,863
Susquehanna	84	50	67	3	0.53	2	21.75	2.91	57	2,121	580	3,419
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	86	50	68	-1	0.76	2	14.16	-5.06	53	2,343	411	3,690
New Castle	90	51	70	3	0.52	2	17.14	-0.27	50	2,515	582	3,873
Slippery Rock	91	49	70	4	0.24	2	16.28	-2.40	51	2,426	680	3,776
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	83	52	68	-1	0.76	4	17.14	0.42	55	2,516	450	3,904
DuBois	83	49	66	0	0.13	2	14.85	-4.44	52	2,156	357	3,480
Lewistown	87	55	71	0	0.59	2	18.30	0.15	65	2,607	346	4,019
Middletown	86	61	73	0	0.64	1	21.65	3.94	56	2,922	375	4,355
Prince Gallitzi	83	48	66	1	0.02	1	18.40	-3.10	50	2,113	453	3,446
Selinsgrove	84	55	69	0	0.32	1	18.40	-0.03	61	2,507	386	3,880
State College	82	54	68	-1	0.16	2	19.02	2.19	64	2,447	401	3,825
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	88	57	71	1	0.29	1	20.49	1.27	55	2,713	376	4,119
Lehighton	81	53	68	-3	0.31	1	20.33	1.25	62	2,321	60	3,694
Matamoras	84	54	69	1	0.19	1	20.88	1.42	73	2,364	316	3,740
Mt_Pocono	80	51	65	2	0.20	2	19.36	-1.18	65	2,023	604	3,343
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	87	55	71	3	0.11	2	15.40	-2.51	55	2,800	729	4,199
Indiana_PA	84	52	68	1	0.31	3	17.93	-2.87	74	2,405	404	3,758
Myersdale	81	49	65	-4	0.82	4	18.52	-1.80	60	1,840	-76	3,150
Chalk_Hill	80	46	63	-7	0.41	3	19.44	-0.54	62	1,943	-260	3,261
Pittsburgh Intl	87	52	70	0	0.31	3	16.90	0.00	52	2,710	544	4,100
Connellsville	84	52	68	-3	0.35	3	19.65	-0.33	63	2,485	282	3,885
Waynesburg	86	50	67	-2	0.07	1	14.81	-3.77	49	2,421	412	3,797
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	85	55	70	-3	0.49	2	19.63	3.20	58	2,725	237	4,145
Everett	84	50	67	-3	0.22	2	18.63	2.32	61	2,248	200	3,614
Hanover	86	57	71	-2	0.67	2	19.11	2.68	60	2,670	182	4,079
Harrisburg_AP	85	61	73	0	0.37	2	22.14	4.43	59	2,972	418	4,407
South Mountain	81	52	67	-3	0.34	4	23.50	6.78	61	2,200	141	3,557
York	86	55	71	-2	0.38	1	17.58	-0.47	63	2,673	197	4,067
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	86	59	72	2	0.00	0	20.52	1.80	57	2,695	466	4,115
Hamburg	86	58	71	3	0.06	1	21.39	-0.34	60	2,642	596	4,049
West_Chester	88	56	71	-2	0.00	0	16.72	-3.58	41	2,675	210	4,073
Lancaster	87	58	72	0	0.43	2	15.66	-3.38	48	2,798	446	4,207
Neshaminy Falls	88	61	73	3	0.00	0	20.54	-1.24	60	2,790	462	4,228
New Holland	88	58	73	3	0.08	1	19.68	0.64	47	2,849	497	4,291
Philadelphia	90	65	77	3	0.00	0	14.68	-3.91	40	3,244	559	4,703
Philadelphia NE	96	63	74	0	0.00	0	16.42	-2.17	49	2,976	291	4,416
Reading	88	58	73	2	0.19	1	16.60	-3.59	58	2,959	644	4,387
Sellersville	86	52	70	1	0.00	0	21.08	2.36	48	2,491	262	3,870
Doylestown_AG	87	59	72	2	0.00	0	20.65	-1.13	51	2,795	467	4,218

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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## REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

### **ADAMS COUNTY, Judy Behney**

Right now, apple producers are picking gala and honey crisp varieties. There are more insects this year compared to other years. Some producers are seeing brown rot in their peaches. Overall, the fruit harvests are going well. The majority of the county got rain last week.

### **CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little**

Last week was a good week for field work. Hay making and harvesting for non-stored potatoes have begun. Soybeans are looking good, with an abundance of pods. We could use some more rain. Rains were very spotty. It is becoming dry.

### **CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker**

Last week was a good week for field work. There were 0.5 inches of rainfall in my gauge.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr**

Showers and damp mornings are holding back alfalfa cuttings. The corn silage harvest is going well. Tonnage is adding up and most farmers are pleased with the quality. The apple harvest is now under way. Quality and price is favorable, but yields are not as high as expected. It is too early to tell what the overall crop will be.

### **LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler**

Corn loss is being evaluated by crop insurance loss adjusters. Soybeans look promising. The late season rain may have been beneficial for them. Fourth cutting alfalfa is yielding well.

### **SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer**

Last week was a good week for haymaking and cutting corn silage. Preparations are being made for fall seeding. Main activities for the week were haymaking, plowing and spraying.

### **WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr**

Only a few isolated showers last week made for very dry conditions over most of the county. Pastures are again browning after a nice recovery earlier in August. This late-season dry period will not do much to reduce corn and soybean yields, but probably will cause acceleration in maturity.

### **YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl**

Foliar diseases on corn and soybeans are becoming more evident. Stinkbug nymphs are becoming more numerous in soybeans.

**PLEASE NOTE:** NASS is currently conducting our annual September surveys on crops and livestock. In the first two weeks of September, NASS is surveying U.S. small grains growers for final production. We are also asking hog producers about their summer pig crop, next year's farrowing intentions, and current inventory. The responses will provide the foundation for 2012 production estimates. All participating farmers should respond. Your information matters!

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 26, 2012**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	16	18	14
Corn, dough	79	65	68
Corn, dent	46	30	36
Corn, mature	12	4	6
Corn silage, harvested	21	12	15
Tobacco, harvested	60	22	36
Potatoes, harvested	45	10	17
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	96	91	86
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	38	18	22
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	94	91	87
Apples, harvested	48	32	32

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 26, 2012**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	2	8	32	40	18
Soybeans	0	3	29	47	21
Quality of hay made	0	1	25	51	23
Pasture	5	14	49	26	6
Apples	1	0	13	47	39

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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